THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Survey for construction of a new line from Ghanauli to Baddi has been completed and survey report is under finalization by Northern Railway. Further decision regarding taking up of the project would be taken based on the results of the survey, once the survey report is received and examined in the Ministry.

Rail accident near Mathura

130. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of casualties due to an accident which occurred on 21st October, 2009 near Mathura where Goa Sampark Kranti Express collided with Mewar Express from the back end side which was standing few metres away from Bajwa Bridge at Bhooteshwar Station;

(b) whether Government has ordered a CBI inquiry in this rail accident;

(c) the amount of compensation declared by her Ministry to the family members of the deceased and injured in this rail accident; and

(d) whether the compensation amount has been given to the family members of the deceased and injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) In this accident 23 persons lost their lives, 15 were grievously injured and 9 others sustained simple injuries. Inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle has been ordered to establish the cause and the responsibility behind this accident. Central Bureau of Investigation has also been requested to take up investigation of the sequence of events leading to this unfortunate accident and after considering all the police cases registered in this matter to unravel the truth.

(c) and (d) An ex-gratia amount of Rs.5 lakhs to the next of kin of each deceased passenger, Rs. 1 lakh to each grievously injured and Rs. 10,000 to each simple injured passenger has been declared. Besides this, they are also entitled to claim compensation. Compensation is paid only after a claim is filed before the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded. No compensation claim has been filed so far in Railway Claims Tribunal for this accident.

Storage facility for agro products

†131. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agro products get wasted on a large scale due to lack of cold storages;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi